

# THEME: From Persecutor To Preacher.

May 5, 2019 – Acts 9:1-9; 17-20

---

*“Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.*

*(About High NOON Paul says in Acts 22:6) He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. ....Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.”*

If someone grew up in a home where the religion that the parents taught was that Odin and Thor were gods and Balhalla was paradise, what would you expect that the children would believe?

If someone grew up in a home where it was believed and taught that Allah was god, what would you expect that the children would believe?

If some adopted children grew up in a home where there were two men who considered themselves husband and wife because they believed they were homosexuals, what would you expect that the children would believe is an acceptable practice?

In the text for today, we hear about a man named Saul.

Saul grew up in a home where Judaism and the Jewish laws were taught.

**Acts 22:3-5 – I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city (Jerusalem). Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. I persecuted the followers of the WAY to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, .....**

**Acts 26:4-5 – The Jews all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child... I lived as a Pharisee.”**

**Philippians 3:4b – 11 – If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ....”**

Saul grew up in a Jewish home where the Jewish Laws were taught, and Saul would have been instructed in the Old Testament Scriptures, the same O.T. Scriptures that we study, and in addition, he was instructed in the TRADITIONS of the Pharisees.

Saul was so Zealous for what he thought was RIGHT that he persecuted the Christian Church and had Men and Women put into prison which led to some of them being put to death.

Saul had studied the O. T. Scriptures, but missed the message of Jesus His Savior.

But then something happened. The Risen Savior appeared to Saul on the Road to DAMASCUS.

A Saul to Paul moment took place. From Unbeliever to Believer.

When was Your Saul to Paul Moment? When Did the Lord bring you from Unbelief to Belief?

Did this take place in your heart as an Infant in your baptism? As an Adult?

What does that Conversion mean for you? It means Eternal Life in Heaven!!!

After the Apostle Paul was brought to faith in Jesus his Savior from Sin, we see in this text from Acts that after he received his sight back, *"He at once began to preach in the Synagogue that Jesus is the Son of God."*

As you study the life of Paul you will also see that after he began to preach the Word of God, he also became one of those who was persecuted, yes even stoned and left for dead. (See II Corinthians 11:21-29, Acts 14:19-20, )

Just because you are a Christian does not mean that your life will be easy, no on the contrary, it may be even harder, but through it all, at the end of the line, you know that your sins are forgiven, Satan and death are defeated by Christ Jesus, and that you have that sure and certain hope of Eternal Life in heaven. AMEN